

sticking to schedule just for the purpose of ---

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he must have some information that I don't have.

Now, when the scientific community decided to put this thing with the Navy, they looked over the thinking and the plans and the developments of the scientists connected with the several Services before they decided on one, and at that time the Navy had one, I think it was called the Viking, and they assigned it, because they thought that offered the greatest probability.

Now, I understand that other Services have claimed they could have done this quicker, and so on. I don't know that any of the other Services know all the problems that the Navy has encountered, but anyway it was again a scientific determination and wasn't anything Service or political about it. It was the scientists that agreed upon it.

Q. Scherer, N.B.C. Mr. President, the scientists seem most impressed with the fact that the Russian satellite weighs as much as it does, 18 1/2 pounds. Does your information indicate that we will launch one that heavy?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you this: Dr. Bronk and, I think this is not secret at all, Dr. Bronk visited me again yesterday, and he had had a talk with one of the very high officials in the government, in the governmental scientific work, and he said that merely he didn't know that that figure was correct. So far as I know we are not thinking of putting one of that weight in the air.

Q. Hazel Markel, N.B.C. Mr. President, in light of the great faith which the American people have in your military knowledge and leadership, are you saying at this time that with the Russian satellite whirling about the world, you are not more concerned nor overly concerned about our nation's security?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I have time and again emphasized my concern about the nation's security. I believe I just a few months back went on the television to make a special plea about this. As a matter of fact, I pled very strongly for 38 billion dollars in new appropriations this year, and was cut quite severely in that new appropriations for next year.

Now, so far as the satellite itself is concerned, that does not raise my apprehensions, not one iota. I see nothing at this moment, at this stage of development, that is significant in that development as far as security is concerned, except, as I pointed out, it does definitely prove the possession by the Russian scientists of a very powerful